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ABSTRACT

A consumer product safety monthly planning guide for community organizations is provided. The material is organized into suggested monthly topics with seasonal emphasis. Each section highlights selected information about how to identify potential hazards associated with categories of products. Each section also includes recommendaitons of ways to reduce the risk of injury and a few examples of activities to assist participants in acquiring new knowledge about the topic. Some sections include a partial listing of relevant Consumer Product Safety Commission resource materials. By month the topics are as follow: January--winter sports safety, February--home safety, March--poison prevention, April--outdoor power equipment safety and skateboard safety, May--playground and bicycle safety, June--summer safety, July--fireworks safety, August--bathroom safety, September--workshop safety, October--burn prevention, November--safe toy buying and babysitting workshop, and December--holiday safety. (JH)

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PRODUCT SAFETY, IT'S NO ACCIDENT

A CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY MONTHLY PLANNING GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION

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One copy of each of the printed materials listed in this book, *Fact Sheets* on each of the products discussed, and a *Catalogue* that lists all Consumer Product Safety Commission information and education materials, is available at no charge. The *Catalogue* lists other materials such as pamphlets, brochures, booklets, curriculum guides for teachers, filmstrips, slides, and films. In the continental United States, call the toll-free CPSC hotline 800-638-8326. Maryland only 800-492-8363. Alaska, Hawaii, Puerto Rico, Virgin Islands 800-638-8333. A teletype for the deaf is available from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. EST for people who call the hotline, or write the U.S Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207.

Multiple copies of some materials listed in this book and in the *Catalogue* may be ordered from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402. GPO stock numbers and prices follow in parentheses where these publications are listed. Slides, filmstrips, and films are available on loan free from Modern Talking Picture Service outlets.

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INTRODUCTION

Using the Guide: This booklet was designed to help you plan a program that introduces product safety to your group. To facilitate integration into your schedule, the material has been organized into suggested monthly topics with seasonal emphases. Each section highlights selected information about how to identify potential hazards associated with categories of products. The sections also include recommendations of ways to reduce the risks of injury and a few examples of activities to assist participants in acquiring new knowledge. Some sections include a partial listing of relevant CPSC resource materials. Lack of space prevented us from including a complete list of all CPSC resource materials available. The materials listed are those particularly appropriate for Community Organizations. (See the inside front cover for information on how to obtain other appropriate resource materials.)

You may find the guide particularly useful for committees or task forces on various types of products. Members could sign up for those topics which particularly interest them and assume responsibility for conducting research, presenting findings and leading the group in any activities undertaken as a result. Perhaps the group will want to issue a monthly or quarterly newsletter or press releases featuring its product safety projects.

CPSC's Objectives: Why do your members need to think about product safety? Because this is an increasingly serious problem in our industrialized society.

Each year approximately 21 million people in the United States are injured and around 25,000 killed in home accidents. The majority of these are product related. The current estimate of annual costs of consumer product injuries is approximately $9.5 billion.

In recognition of this problem, a new independent Federal regulatory agency, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, began operation in May 1973. Its primary goal is to substantially reduce injuries associated with consumer products. Its mission is to:

Protect the public against unreasonable risks of injury associated with consumer products;

Assist consumers in evaluating the comparative safety of consumer products;

Develop uniform safety standards for consumer products and minimize conflicting state and local regulations;

Promote research and investigation into the causes and prevention of product-related deaths, illnesses and injuries.

Accidents are responsible for more deaths in this country each year than all infectious diseases combined. But what is an accident? If accidents are defined as unpredictable and unavoidable events, they are by definition also uncontrollable.

Accidents may be unintentional and unexpected, but few happen by pure luck or chance. Perhaps *accidents* should be called *incidents* to emphasize that they have causes. Some accidents happen because of product failure, and others happen because of unfavorable environmental conditions, and because people make mistakes. But environmental conditions can be improved, and mistakes can be prevented—accident-related human behavior can be changed.

Changing such behavior is the goal of consumer product safety education.

When local artisans made most of the goods consumers purchased, they could learn much of what they needed to know through personal experience. Now there is too much to learn by experience alone—and what people don't know *can* hurt them. Understanding how and why products become hazards is essential to safety. Children, particularly, need to identify and internalize the concepts that can help them reduce the risks of injury. Increased knowledge and awareness of basic principles will help people make better—and safer—decisions.

Five Basic Principles: The five basic principles of consumer product safety are based on the concept that consumer product safety is a three-way interaction of the consumer, the product and the environment. The principles are as follows:

Selection. Selection involves making a decision on safety in a product—the brand, quality, and performance. It involves the *why* of doing something; who is using the product; *where* it will be used; *how* it is to be used; and *what* are its potential hazards.

Use. Use unites the product and the user. Accidents usually occur in the interaction between the user and the product. Proper use is the key to product safety. For example, read all labels and instruction manuals carefully; use the product only for its intended purpose; use it in the right environment; if it has protective devices, use them; instruct and supervise the young and the elderly on the product's use. Remember to clear the work area, wear proper clothing, not to work in haste and avoid fatigue.

Maintenance, Repair and Retrofit. Maintenance involves keeping the product in safe working order to minimize injury. It also involves retrofit, which is upgrading a product to new performance and/or safety standards, that is, adapting a product to reduce the risk of injury during use. Good maintenance is inspecting product parts that may need replacing due to wear. Repair implies restoring the product to as near its original condition as possible to assure continued safety.

Storage. Storage means protecting the product to keep it safe; improper storage can affect a product's performance. It also means putting the product away to use at a later time, even hiding it to make sure that it does not fall into the wrong hands, for example, a child's.

Disposal. This means getting rid of a product that is no longer used, needed, or wanted. It means properly disposing of a product so that the product cannot become a potential hazard; for example, keeping trash disposal containers tightly covered, and discarding medicines when they are no longer necessary by pouring them down a drain and rinsing out the containers.

This Guide is based on the assumption that many product-related injuries can be prevented if people are properly educated.

If we label all of life's unpleasant surprises as accidents, then we come to perceive ourselves as the playthings of fate and we cultivate a philosophy of carelessness and irresponsibility. On the other hand, if we look for causes and hold ourselves accountable for the mishaps in our lives, we become people of resource and confidence, increasingly able to control the direction of events.

John J. Brownfain in
"When Is an Accident Not an Accident?"

JANUARY

WINTER SPORTS SAFETY

Winter weather can create some of nature's greatest spontaneous playgrounds. But sprained ankles, abrasions and frostbite can ruin the season's fun. Public awareness of winter hazards can pay off in reducing winter injuries.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: *Do many amateur enthusiasts get hurt using winter sports equipment?*

A: Yes. It is estimated that well over 100,000 skiers, sledders, tobogganists, snow diskers and snowmobilers receive treatment in hospital emergency rooms each year.

Q: *Why are so many people injured in these kinds of winter sports?*

A: Lack of understanding of the potential risks associated with sporting accidents can be a problem. Many winter sporting accidents can be traced to the victims' lack of experience with and knowledge of the sporting equipment, and mistaken judgements about their own abilities. Novice skiers, for example, have a disproportionate share of skiing accidents, in spite of the fact that they are fewer in number and spend considerably less time on the slopes than veteran skiers.

PREVENTION

Use good judgement.

Novices should not attempt the feats performed by skilled veterans. Playing when fatigued can lead to accidents. Snowmobiles should never be driven when falling snow reduces visibility

Respect the safety of others.

Skiers should never stop in the middle of downhill ski slopes. Toboggan runs should begin only when the slides are clear. Side paths should be used for walking back up the slopes. Any depressions (sitzmarks) made in the snow by falling bodies or equipment should be filled in. Extra caution must be used in sledding at twilight, and sledding should be avoided at night. The buddy system in snowmobiling will prevent lone drivers from being stranded in case of accidents or breakdowns.

Don't take chances.

Signs indicating the difficulty of a ski slope should be heeded. Sliding areas should be checked for bumps, tree stumps, boulders, ice and bare spots. Streets, intersections and alleys make dangerous winter playgrounds. Sleds should *never* be hitched to cars. Snowmobile trips should be planned, and at least a half tank of fuel reserved for the return. The temptation to drive on frozen ponds or streams, and to speed, must be avoided.

Know and respect the equipment.
Knowing the capabilities of ski equipment and having the proper fit are essential to avoiding injuries. Bindings and anti-friction devices should be thoroughly cleaned and lubricated frequently. Split or splintered wood, bent metal parts, protruding rivets and sled runners that end in sharp-edged hooks should be repaired. It is important to remember that snow disks have handles but they cannot be steered or controlled. Snow equipment should be dried thoroughly and stored indoors after use.

Dress for the occasion.
Warm, wind-resistant and close-fitting clothing that won't get tangled in ski lifts, poles or tow ropes, or the moving parts of snowmobiles, should be worn. Goggles and helmets with chin straps provide protection for snowmobilers. Remember that in an open, moving vehicle, the wind can lower the effective temperature by 50°F.

Know the traffic laws.
Many states prohibit the use of snowmobiles on public roads, and have minimum age requirements for drivers.

SNOWMOBILE EQUIPMENT CHECK LIST

___Ample fuel. (It's always wise to start with a full tank.)
___Tools, extra spark plugs, first-aid kit and flares.
___Drive belt in good condition.
___Ski assemblies aligned and tightened.
___Neither too much tension nor free movement in track.
___Handlebars turn freely.
___Throttle and brake controls operate smoothly.

ACTIVITIES

Objective: To increase community members' awareness of the need for proper selection, use and maintenance of winter sports equipment.

Sponsor a Winter Safety Workshop at a local winter carnival or sporting event, such as hockey game, ski race or skating competition. The workshop could include demonstrations of how to evaluate winter sports equipment for safety and how to purchase and use it wisely.

Invite a local winter sports champion or a sports store owner to talk about winter sports safety at a group meeting. Parents should be encouraged to learn about the proper selection, use and maintenance of winter sports equipment so they can teach their children.

Don't throw stones at your neighbors if your own windows are glass.

—Benjamin Franklin
in *Poor Richard's Almanac*

FEBRUARY

HOME SAFETY

Most accidents occur where people should feel safest—in their homes. Many potential hazards can be identified and corrected, however, and community groups can help.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: *What are some of the common accidents that occur at home?*

A: Many injuries result from falls caused by slippery floors or faulty flooring materials, and many could be avoided. Other accidents are associated with glass doors and windows, non-glass doors, stairs, ramps and landings.

Q: *What can be done to reduce the number of accidents?*

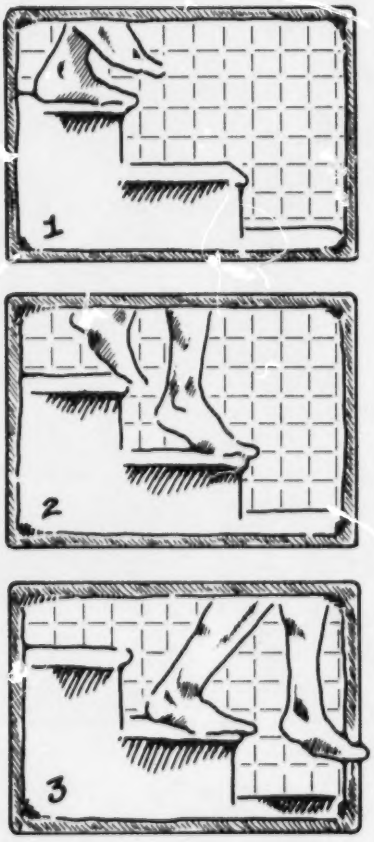
A: A good share of common sense can go a long way in preventing accidents in the home.

Small rugs and runners should be avoided on all smooth-surfaced floors. Porch, terrace, carport and garage floors can be made more slip-resistant if sand or similar abrasive material is added to the paint before painting. Homes should be checked for protrusions, including improperly installed abrasive strips, mats and carpeting.

Glass panels and sliding glass doors should be made obvious. Obstacles can be placed nearby to prevent collisions; decals or colored tape can be attached at both adults' and children's eye levels; safety bars can be installed at doorhandle level; and protective screens or grilles can be placed over the glass in storm doors. Storm windows should never be stored unmounted, unprotected, or where they are accessible to children. (Mandatory Federal safety standards for specified glazing became effective on July 6, 1977.)

Improperly placed hinged doors (for example, doors that open into frequently used hallways, that swing open over flights of stairs, or that contact each other when open)should be replaced with folding or sliding doors, or eliminated entirely.

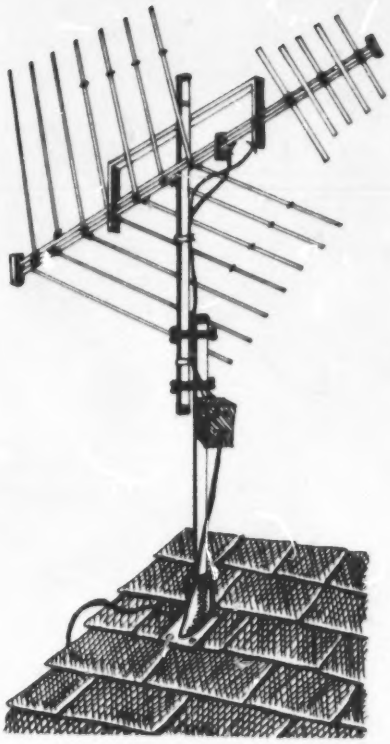
Exterior stairs and ramps should always be kept free of ice and snow. Stairways should be equipped with handrails and kept well lit and free of obstacles. Loose carpeting and worn rubber treads should be fastened or discarded. Older persons, particularly those with poor vision and slow reflexes, are frequently involved in stairway accidents which cause serious injuries.



INSTALLATION OF ANTENNAS

Most residential power lines carry in excess of 2,000 volts A.C. to transformers located in residential areas. The wires that carry electricity from these transformers to houses carry 240 or 120 volts A.C. Any of these are powerful enough to kill. Metal antennas conduct electricity. Don't assume that power lines are insulated.

Never touch any wires going above or into your house. If you have questions about installing antennas, call your power company.



ACTIVITIES

Objective: To raise the level of awareness of community members about accidents in their homes and to encourage them to remedy unsafe conditions.

A Home Safety Check List can be developed and distributed to members. Members could evaluate the structural safety of their homes and take corrective measures wherever necessary.

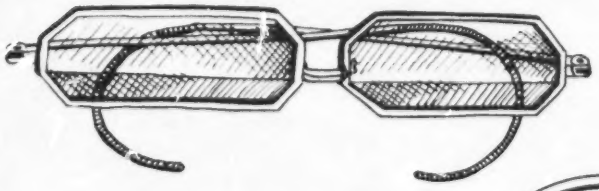
Develop and display a home safety window exhibit in a willing merchant's window.

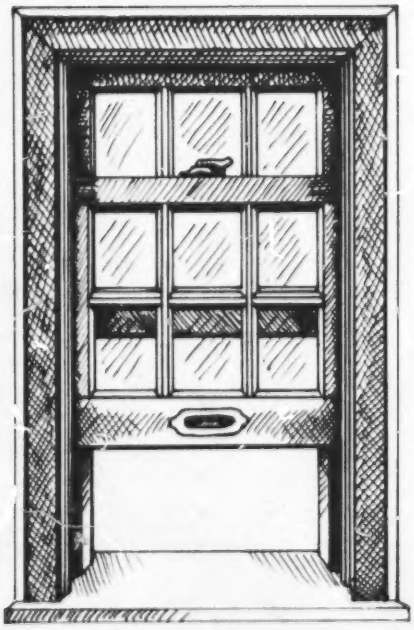
Display unsafe articles or photographs of structures similar to those which have caused actual home accidents in the area. Describe each case or display newspaper clippings.

Arrange a panel discussion with a builder, architect, electrician and heating contractor to discuss proper design, construction and maintenance of home structures.

RESOURCE MATERIALS

"*That Feeling of Falling,*" 12 minute, 16mm color sound film on free loan from Modern Talking Picture Service outlets.





THE MANY FACES OF GLASS

When most of us think of glass, we think of its being fragile, brittle, breakable, sharp and dangerous. Modern manufacturing techniques, however, have produced a myriad of glass materials which range from being as heavy as iron to being as soft as cotton and as delicate as egg shells.

MARCH

POISON PREVENTION

Chemicals are generally beneficial when used according to directions but can be dangerous when used in the wrong amounts or in the wrong way. If the proper precautions are taken, however, tragedy can be averted.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: *Who is accidentally poisoned most often?*

A: :Of all reported accidental poisonings, over half involve children under five years of age.

Q: *What is one common accidental poisoning substance?*

A: One of the most common is aspirin.

Q: *What other common household substances are potentially poisonous?*

A: Others include cleaning agents, insect sprays, kerosene, lighter fluid, furniture polishes, turpentine, paints and solvents and medicines.

Q: *Doesn't proper labeling prevent accidental poisoning?*

A: Warning labels are of little help to children who cannot read and children who cannot read are the ones most frequently poisoned.

Q: *Then what about child-resistant packaging commonly used on medicine bottles? Doesn't it alleviate the dangers?*

A: The Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970 has been effective in reducing poisonings among small children. Safety packaging can be only child-resistant, however. If it were child-proof, it might also be adult-proof. To pass the required tests under current standards such containers must be incapable of being opened by 80% of children under five, but accessible by at least 90% of adults. And child-resistant packaging can work only when it is properly closed after each use.

EVERY HOME SHOULD BE POISON-PROOFED

Growing children are explorers. Since their natural curiosity is aroused by things that glitter, pretty colored pills and bottles and attractively packaged containers of all kinds, their environment must be made as hazard free as possible. As children grow older, however, protection should yield to education. Children's real safety will be insured only when they can use knowledge to protect themselves.

PREVENTION

All medicines should be locked up out of reach and out of sight of little children, even if they will be left alone for only a moment—babies move fast!

All hazardous substances should be kept in their original containers.

In case of ingestion, the label on the original container can help a doctor or poison control center identify the chemical ingredient that has been swallowed.

All warning labels should be read before a hazardous product is used and the directions followed carefully.

The light should always be on when medicines are taken or given. Children should never be told that medicine is candy. Only the recommended doses of medicine should be taken.

Store internal medicines separately from other household products.

The medicine cabinet should be cleaned out periodically. Unused prescription medications should be flushed down the toilet and their containers rinsed out and discarded.

Household substances should be purchased in child-resistant containers when they are available and the containers properly closed after each use.

Children should be taught about the danger of eating and drinking unknown substances.

SYRUP OF IPECAC

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has named Syrup of Ipecac the treatment of choice where vomiting is indicated in case of poisoning.

1. Call a doctor. Or call nearest Poison Control Center, hospital emergency room, ambulance or rescue squad. Keep these numbers by the phone.

2. Find the poison. Save the container and rest of contents. It will help the doctor or Poison Control Center to choose the best treatment. If the victim vomits, save the vomit for the doctor.

3. Do NOT make the person vomit if:

a. The person is unconscious or is having convulsions.

b. The poison is a strong corrosive such as acid or lye. Give liquid instead. Vomiting is not routinely advised for first aid if petroleum distillates (kerosene, gasoline, furniture polish, lighter fluid, etc.) are swallowed; in some cases, however, it may be recommended. Check with the doctor first.

To make the person vomit.

a) Give one tablespoonful (one-half ounce) of Syrup of Ipecac to children one year of age or older, with at least one cup of water. If no vomiting occurs after 20 minutes, this dose may be repeated *one time only*. Syrup of Ipecac can be bought at pharmacies and should be kept in the home at all times.

b.) If there is no Syrup of Ipecac, give water and try to make the person vomit by gently pressing the back of the throat with a finger, a spoon or other blunt object. After the person vomits, give more water or milk to drink.

SPECIAL NOTE ON LEAD POISONING

Lead poisoning is a serious crippler and killer of young children. Since January, 1974, paints for residential use have been limited in lead content by law. This order also has applied to any toy or article coated with paint or any similar material and intended for use by children.

One of the most common sources of lead poisoning is the peeling and chipped leaded paint found on the windowsills, doors and walls of older homes. Some children, usually those one to six years old, apparently like to eat paint.

Workers and entire families face the same hazard when older homes and other buildings are rehabilitated and sanding raises leaded paint dust. *Careful cleaning and maintenance of lead-painted homes is a necessity!*

Symptoms of lead poisoning are:
Unusual irritability;
Poor appetite;
Stomach pains and vomiting;
Persistent constipation;
Sluggishness or drowsiness.

ACTIVITIES

Objectives: To increase community awareness of the extent and seriousness of accidental poisonings and to encourage community members to implement an effective campaign to prevent such poisonings.

Initiate a public information program through the media to inform consumers of the severity and extent of accidental poisonings due to mislabeling, improper packaging and improper storing of poisonous substances. The following can be used as a guide to establishing an effective program.

A) Define Objectives: A successful poison prevention program is based on sound principles and requires careful planning and skillful communication. An effective program needs public understanding and citizen participation to attain its objectives.

B) Formulate Key Ideas: An effective program must appeal to both emotions and reason.

C) Identify Audience: Gear the program to the needs of the target audience. Take into consideration group interests, attitudes and values.

D) Select Media: Coordinate the media to reinforce, supplement and complement each other. Good relations with the local media are important.

E) Set Up Timetable: Timing is crucial; good publicity must have continuity; messages must be reinforced. (National Poison Prevention Week is this month.)

F) Evaluation: Examine the program to determine its effectiveness. Is enough being done? Is the message getting across?

Use media approaches, such as interviews, editorials, spot announcements, news releases, feature articles, photographs and news conferences to conduct an effective poison prevention program.

Reproduce and distribute a Poison Prevention Check List to members to use in ascertaining safe labeling and storing of poisonous substances and in making necessary changes.

Develop a puppet show on poison prevention for local grade schools, nursery schools, day care centers and youth groups.

POISON PROOF HOME SAFETY CHECK LIST

Check these places to see if potentially poisonous products are packaged in safety containers and stored safely, out of reach of little children.

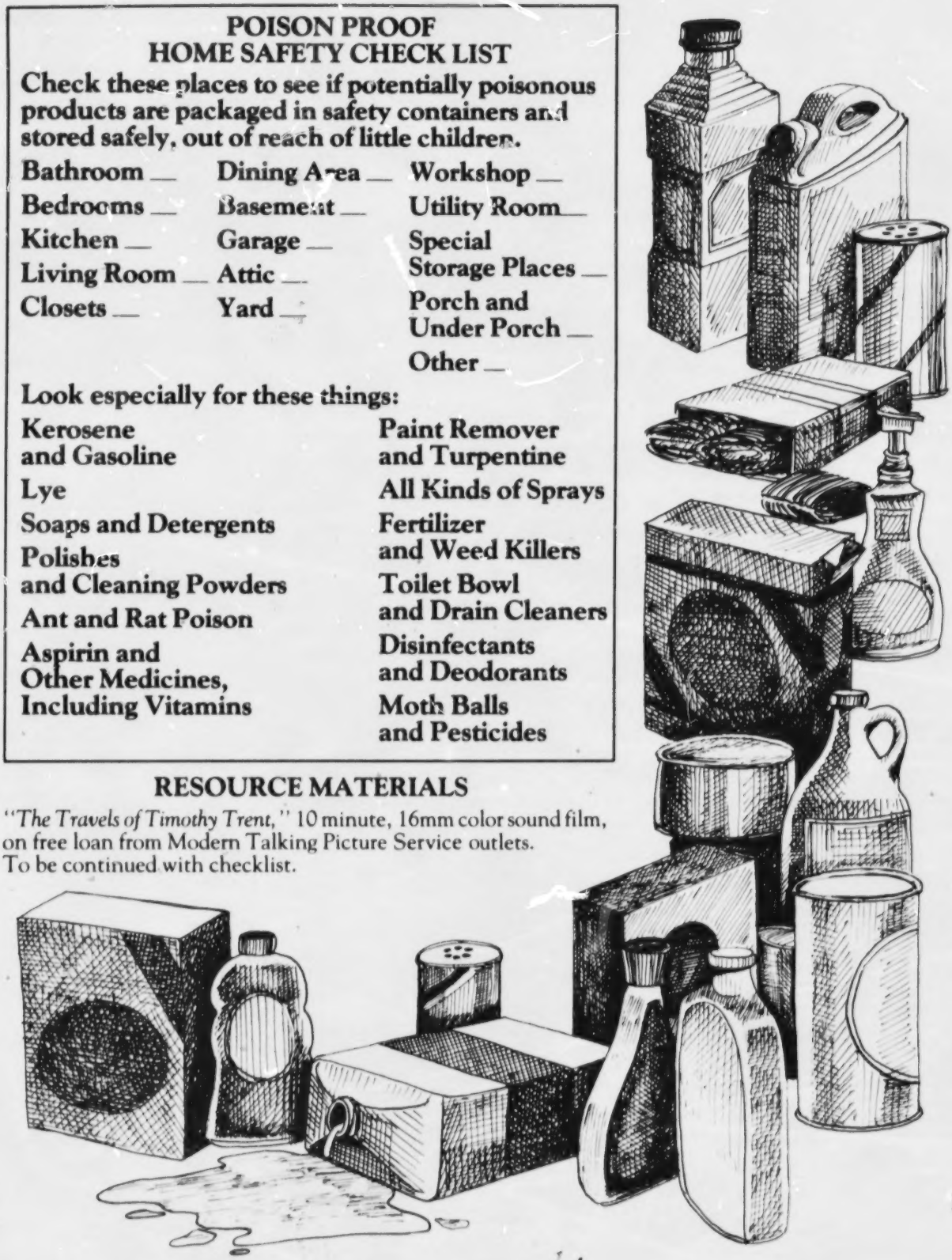
Bathroom __	Dining Area __	Workshop __
Bedrooms __	Basement __	Utility Room __
Kitchen __	Garage __	Special Storage Places __
Living Room __	Attic __	
Closets __	Yard __	Porch and Under Porch __
		Other __

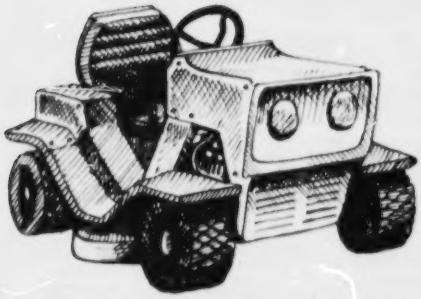
Look especially for these things:

Kerosene and Gasoline	Paint Remover and Turpentine
Lye	All Kinds of Sprays
Soaps and Detergents	Fertilizer and Weed Killers
Polishes and Cleaning Powders	Toilet Bowl and Drain Cleaners
Ant and Rat Poison	Disinfectants and Deodorants
Aspirin and Other Medicines, Including Vitamins	Moth Balls and Pesticides

RESOURCE MATERIALS

"*The Travels of Timothy Trent,*" 10 minute, 16mm color sound film, on free loan from Modern Talking Picture Service outlets.
To be continued with checklist.





APRIL

OUTDOOR POWER EQUIPMENT SAFETY

Technological advances, while making life a little easier, also have increased potential safety hazards. Many serious accidents are associated with lawn and garden power equipment.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: *What products are frequently involved in accidents?*

A: Power lawn mowers, garden tractors, power hedge trimmers, and chain saws are some of them.

Q: *What kinds of injuries are characteristic of these accidents?*

A: Amputations of fingers, toes, and limbs, and severe cuts are typical injuries. People also are hurt by heavy equipment turning over, by misuse of flammable fuels and by objects thrown from the equipment.

PURCHASING POWER EQUIPMENT

Power mowers should have rear guards. The discharge opening should be aimed downward, and the grass-catching bag guarded or located so that it does not come in contact with the muffler or engine exhaust. Handles should have "up stops" to maintain a safe distance between the operator and the rear of the mower.

Garden tractors should have safety guards for all power driven parts, in reach of the operator. The throttle, gears and brakes should work well and be accessible for smooth operation with minimum effort.

The cutting teeth and guards on power hedge trimmers should be close together so a finger could not get between them. Trimmers should have two handles, the forward one wide and high above the cutting blades. Lightweight machines are easier to control than heavier ones. Pressure-sensitive switches will insure that the machine turns off when pressure is released. Trimmers should be either double insulated or equipped with a three-wire cord.

Chain saws should have guards over the drive sprocket and rear portion of the chain. If gasoline powered, the exhaust should be directed away from the operator. If electrically powered, the saw should be either double insulated or have a three-wire cord. Motor control should be through a pressure-sensitive switch.

SAFE USE OF EQUIPMENT

Instruction or owner's manuals always should be carefully read.

Operators should wear sturdy shoes and clothing that cannot catch in moving parts.

The equipment always should be turned off, and the moving parts stopped when not in use.

Outdoor power equipment should not be used when the ground is slippery or wet.

Engines should be refueled only outdoors, and never refilled when they are hot.

All cords should be checked regularly for cuts, cracks or breaks in insulation. Cords should be kept away from the blades at all times.

Lawn Mowers and Garden Tractors

Wires, cans, rocks and twigs should be raked away before mowing is started. The machine should be turned off and the spark plug wires disconnected before the equipment is unclogged or adjusted—even a slight rotation of the blade could start the engine. Hand mowers should be pushed—not pulled—and directed *across* slopes. Riding mowers, however, should be driven up and down the slopes for stability.

Chain Saws

Saws should be started on a firm surface. The wood should be cut close to the ground so the saw cannot swing downward toward the operator's legs after the cut. The recommended stance in using chain saws is to keep legs well apart for balance and to stand to one side of the machine so the chain is not in line with the body. Kickback most often occurs when the saw chain at the top of the guide bar touches an object. Injuries from this type of kickback usually occur to the chest, neck and face. The user never should stand on chairs or ladders that can fall and never should cut above shoulder height. Care should be taken to avoid using equipment when fatigued.

SKATEBOARD SAFETY

Skateboarding as a recreation activity, has increased at a dramatic pace in recent years. The increase in popularity of this active sport, however, has been accompanied by a similar rate of skateboard-related injuries. To help keep this fun sport from being marred by injury, adults need to be aware of certain hazards.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: *What causes skateboarding accidents?*

A: Skateboard accident patterns include:

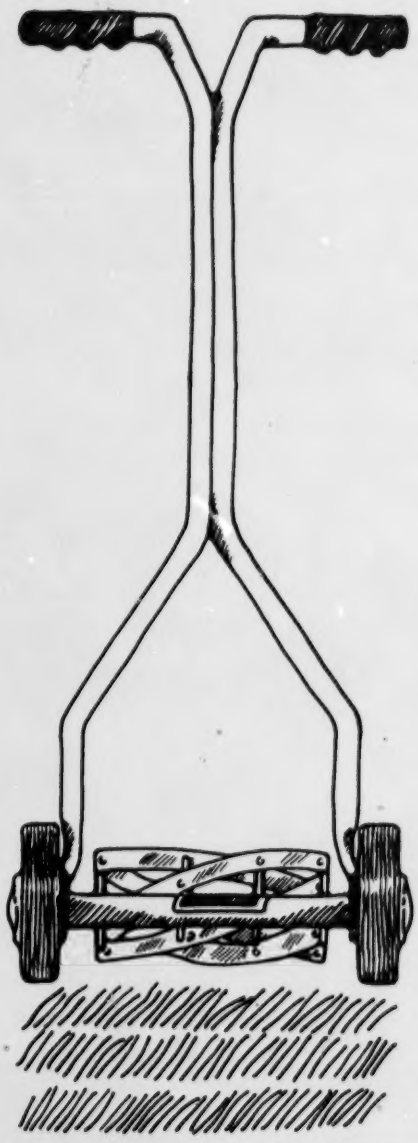
The rider losing his/her balance, striking an irregularity in the riding surface, slipping off the board, jumping from the board, falling while turning, striking an obstacle and riding onto a soft surface;

The board slipping out from under rider, board stopping suddenly, board breaking or cracking, a wheel coming off or other skateboard failure;

Collisions with motor vehicles, bicycles, other skateboards, fences, trees, or tricycles.

Q: *Who is hurt in accidents?*

A: A CPSC study has shown that most injuries are suffered by



THE FIRST LAWN MOWER

The first lawn mower was patented in 1805 as Thomas Pluckett's "machine for mowing corn, grass, etc." It consisted simply of two shaft-steered carriage wheels which were geared to revolve a large, circular blade parallel to the ground.

By the late 19th century, horse-drawn mowers were introduced. The year 1893 saw the first mechanized model in the Leland steam-mower. At the turn of the century, the internal combustion engine powered a self-propelled model with a seat for the driver. The first electrically powered mowers became available in 1926. Today, mowers which can be operated by remote control are available.

youngsters 10-14 years old. One third of the victims were skaters of less than a week's experience.

"BOARDING" SAFETY

For safer skateboarding, the "boarder" should keep these tips in mind:

Seek instructions, especially before beginning. Always check the surface of a skating area—for irregularities, obstacles.

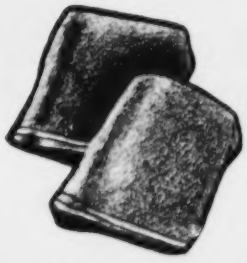
Always precheck the skateboard—for any needed adjustments to the truck mechanism, cracks, breaks or other signs of deterioration.

Always wear proper clothing and protective equipment—helmets, wrist supports and gloves, elbow, knee, and hip pads and rubber-soled footwear.

Never skateboard in streets—or other traffic areas.

Don't try tricks beyond your ability. Know your skill limits.

Learn how to fall. And *never* skate at night, except in lighted supervised skateboard parks.



ACTIVITIES

Objectives: To increase the awareness of adults about the need to encourage youngsters to observe safety precautions in the use of skateboards.

Formulate a "Safer Skateboarding Check List" and enlist the support of local sports equipment merchants to distribute them at the point of sale.

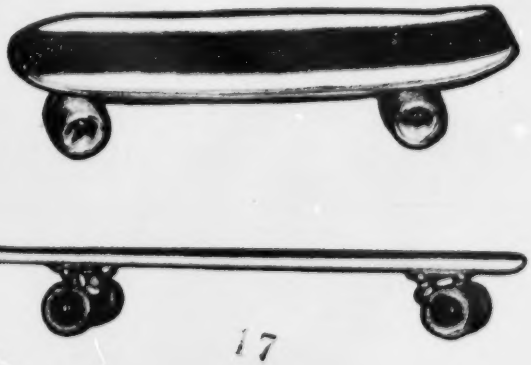
Explore the community to identify areas where traffic can be limited or the environment controlled and which can be set aside specifically for skateboarding. If there are commercial recreation areas where skateboarding is done, visit them to inquire about and observe whether safety precautions are observed.

Plan, arrange, and publicize a "Safer Skateboarding Demonstration" at a local public park or recreation area or on a parking lot loaned by a local merchant. A "Safer Skateboarding Check List" can be handed out to those who attend.

RESOURCE MATERIALS

"User's Guide for Power Mower Safety"

"Play It Safe," 11 minute, 16mm color sound film, on free loan from Modern Talking Picture Service outlets.



MAY

PLAYGROUND SAFETY

Despite manufacturers' claims to the contrary, playground equipment sometimes includes dangerous design or construction flaws. But even the safest equipment can be involved in accidents if it is used improperly or if it is installed or maintained incorrectly.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: *What kinds of injuries are associated with playground equipment?*
A: Fractures, dislocations, sprains and lacerations often result from falls onto hard surfaces. Other injuries result from impact with moving equipment, trapping the head and feet, structural failure and contact with rough edges or protrusions.

PLAYGROUND SAFETY RULES FOR CHILDREN

Swings

Sit in the center of the swing; never stand or kneel.
Hold on with both hands.
Stop the swing before getting off.
Walk clear of a moving swing—not too close to the front or the back.
Never push anyone else in the swing, or allow others to do so.
Have only one person in a swing at a time.
Never swing empty swings or twist swing chains.
Avoid putting head and feet through exercise rings on the swing sets.

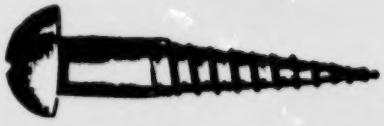
Slides

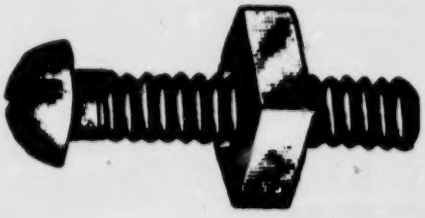
Hold on with both hands when going up the steps of the slide, taking one step at a time; never go up the sliding surface or the frame. Keep at least one arm's length between children.
Slide down feet first, always sitting up, one at a time.
Be sure no one is in front of the slide before sliding down.
Be patient; never push or shove.
Leave the front of the slide as soon as the ride is finished.

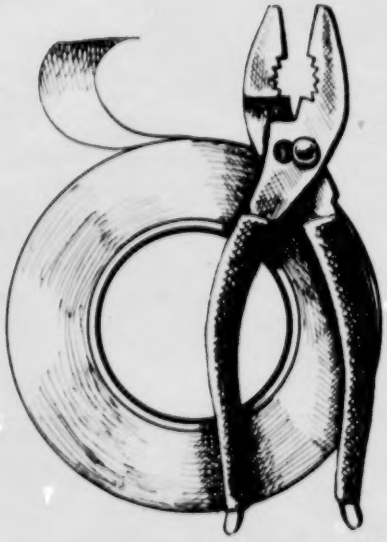
Climbing Apparatus

The correct grip—fingers and thumbs ("lock grip") of both hands—should be used for climbing and holding.
Watch carefully when climbing down, and avoid those climbing up.
Avoid having too many people use the equipment at once.
Never use equipment when it is wet.
Avoid speed contests or trying to cover too large a distance in one move.
Drop from the bars with knees slightly bent and land on both feet.

Play is in the nature of children. It is not merely an "extra" or inconsequential part of a child's life. It is through play that children imitate adults and learn adult habits; through play they learn to be social beings—they learn how to interact with others, to take turns, to share and to cooperate.







Seesaws

Sit facing each other, not leaning back.

Keep a firm hold with both hands.

Never stand or run on the board.

Keep feet out from underneath the board as it goes down.

Let partners know before getting off; hold the board tightly and let it rise gradually so the child at the other end can get off safely.

Never "bump" the other person by hitting the ground hard with either end of the board.

PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT DANGERS

Pinch-Crush Points: Moving parts, particularly on gliders and seesaws, can pinch or crush fingers.

Sharp Edges: Sharp edges or points, particularly where the parts of equipment fit together, should be taped over with heavy, weatherproof tape.

Exposed Screws and Bolts: If they are not covered with protective caps, all exposed screws and bolts—even those which appear to be out of children's reach—should be taped over.

"S" Hooks: Open-ended hooks can catch skin and clothing. These should be pinched in tightly with a pair of pliers.

Rings: Because swinging exercise rings between five and ten inches in diameter can trap children's heads, they should be removed and discarded.

Hard, Heavy Swing Seats: Heavy, hard seats should be replaced with lightweight ones. If metal seats are used, they should have smooth, rolled edges.

Inadequate Spacing: All sets should be kept a minimum of six feet away from fences, buildings, walkways and other play areas, such as sandboxes.

Improper Anchoring: All types of anchoring devices should be placed below ground level to prevent tripping. Legs can be set in concrete for extra stability.

Hard Surfaces: Grass or sand is a much better groundcover for playground sets than hard surfaces such as concrete, brick, blacktop or cinders.

ACTIVITIES

Objectives: To increase the awareness of community members about the need to select and use safe playground equipment.

Plan a community playground. Contact the local school board, or county or city park authority, for the names and addresses of playground equipment suppliers. Catalogues could then be obtained from these suppliers. Look at the safety features of the different brands. How sturdy is the equipment? Will children be bored next year with the equipment they have this year? Can additional units or pieces be purchased as children grow and develop? Check with manufacturers or local fencing contractors about the possibility of free planning and designing services to community organizations. They may draw scale models of the proposed playground. With this overall design in mind, organizations can purchase equipment piece

by piece as they can afford it, with the end result an attractive, organized play area.

Formulate a "Safe Playground Equipment Check List" to use in the evaluation of all playgrounds in the community. The findings and recommendations could be sent to local recreation officers or the mayor of the town.

Conduct regularly scheduled maintenance checks on equipment and make needed repairs.

RESOURCE MATERIALS

"*The Swing That Swung Back,*" 6 minute, 16mm color sound filmograph on free loan from Modern Talking Picture Service outlets.

"*Play Happy, Play Safely*" Outdoor Playground Equipment Guide (Booklet), GPO #052-011-00163-8, $0.90 for 1 copy.

BICYCLE SAFETY

Recently bicycles have become extremely popular. An unfortunate side effect of this increased popularity has been a substantial rise in bicycle–related injuries and fatalities. In May, National Bicycle Safety Week affords an excellent opportunity for bicycle safety education.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: *What causes bicycle accidents?*

A: Characteristics of bicycle accident patterns include:

Loss of control resulting from difficulty in braking, riding oversized bikes, riding double, stunting, and striking ruts, bumps and obstacles;

Mechanical and structural problems, including defective and loose wheels and steering mechanism, difficulty in shifting gears, chain slippage, pedals falling off, and spoke breakage;

Entanglement of feet, hands or clothing in the moving parts;

Foot slippage from pedals;

Collision with cars or other bicycles.

Q: *Who is hurt in accidents?*

A: The majority of these accidents involve children under age 14.

Q: *Has anything been done to protect consumers from purchasing unsafe bicycles?*

A: CPSC has issued safety regulations for bicycles. Bicycles introduced into interstate commerce on or after May 11, 1976, (except used bicycles, custom bikes or track bicycles) must meet these requirements.

It is estimated that the long-range effect of this regulation will be to reduce the 17% of bicycle-related injuries caused by problems with the bicycle itself.

The vast majority of bicycle-related injuries, however, are not caused by mechanical failures. No matter how safe a bicycle is, it must be *used* safely.

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT

_____

Has passed the Bike Safety Inspection Program and that his or her bicycle is safe and in good working order.

☐ All sharp edges, rough spots, and bolts without protective caps have been covered, filed off, or removed.

☐ The frame is strong and each part of the frame is straight.

☐ There are no parts sticking up behind the seat which could limit the driver's ability to get off the bike quickly.

☐ Brakes are adjusted and in good working order. A driver can stop easily without jamming the brakes.

☐ The chain guard is firmly in place (single speed bikes only). The chain is tight.

☐ The bike has reflectors in front, rear, and sides and has lights in front and rear if driven at dusk or dark.

☐ Tires are in good condition and have the right amount of air in them.

☐ Bicycle is the right size for the driver—not too big. Seat height is properly adjusted.

I have inspected the bicycle driven by the above named student and find it to be in good working condition.

_____

Parent

_____

Teacher

To Parents: This is a checklist of some important bicycle safety items. Please take a few minutes with your child to look at his or her bike and to make any necessary repairs. Some items may require adjustment by a bicycle mechanic. You may obtain more bicycle safety information from your local police department or from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Washington, D.C. 20207.

HOW TO SELECT SAFE BICYCLES

A bicycle should suit the rider's ability and kind of riding. Some children under the age of 11 don't have enough experience and coordination to simultaneously shift gears, use hand brakes and maintain balance. High-risers are mainly for fun since they maneuver easily, but are hard to pedal for long distances.

Oversized bicycles should not be purchased with the idea that their riders will "grow into" them later. Boys should be able to straddle the horizontal top bar and maintain a one-inch clearance with both feet flat on the ground. Girls should be able to sit on the seat at its lowest position and, with one leg extended nearly straight on a pedal at its lowest position, reach the ground with the ball of the other foot.

Hand and foot brakes should be checked for fast, easy stops without instability or jamming.

Slippery plastic pedals should be avoided. Unless the pedals can be rotated backward to release quickly, any clothing that might get caught between the chain and sprocket, the bicycle should have a chain guard. Chain guards are required on bikes with single front and rear sprockets.

Bicycle frames must be sturdy and properly fabricated. Even a hairline crack can cause metal to break under a sudden jolt.

RULES FOR SAFE RIDING

All traffic laws should be known and observed. Bicyclists should ride single file on the right side of the road near the curb, and in the same direction as traffic. High-speed traffic and busy intersections should be avoided, and when this isn't possible, bikes should be walked—not ridden—across the intersection, particularly for left-hand turns. Children must always watch out for automobiles; they can't expect drivers to watch out for them.

Riding in wet weather or through deep puddles should be avoided.

Riders must always be alert to surface conditions, including sewer grates, potholes and rocks.

Loose clothing or long coats that could catch in pedals or wheels should not be worn for riding bikes. Leg clips or bands keep pant legs from tangling in the chain.

For increased visibility in the dark, reflective tape should be applied to clothing or knapsacks, or reflective vests and jackets should be worn. Front-back flashlights also can be strapped to arms and legs.

HOW TO MAINTAIN BICYCLES

An experienced bicycle shop repairperson should do any complicated work. Wobbly wheels should be aligned (or trued) for better control.

Tires should have good tread for better braking, and be kept inflated to recommended pressure.

Any loose parts should be tightenend and/or adjusted; any damaged, worn or missing parts (including chain guards, chain links, spokes, pedals and handlebar grips) should be replaced.

Any protrusions, sharp points and rough edges must be eliminated. These can be filed, and the areas covered with heavy, waterproof tape.

Reflectors should make the bike visible at night from the front, back and sides. Reflective trim can be taped to fenders, handlebars, chain guards and wheel sidewalls as well. Using headlights and taillights will further increase visibility.

All moving parts should be lightly oiled and cleaned periodically. Bicycles should be kept indoors when they are not in use.

ACTIVITIES

Objective: To encourage community members to keep safety in mind in the selection, use and maintenance of bicycles.

Set up a bicycle safety workshop. Stress the following: how to select the best bicycle to fit the rider, the necessity of safety equipment on the bike, and proper maintenance. The workshop should also emphasize the rules for safe bike riding.

Develop posters on bicycle safety for display in bicycle stores.

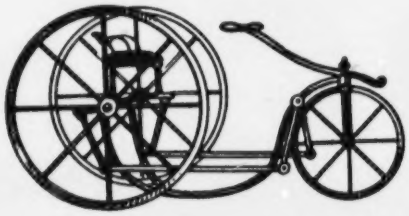
RESOURCE MATERIALS

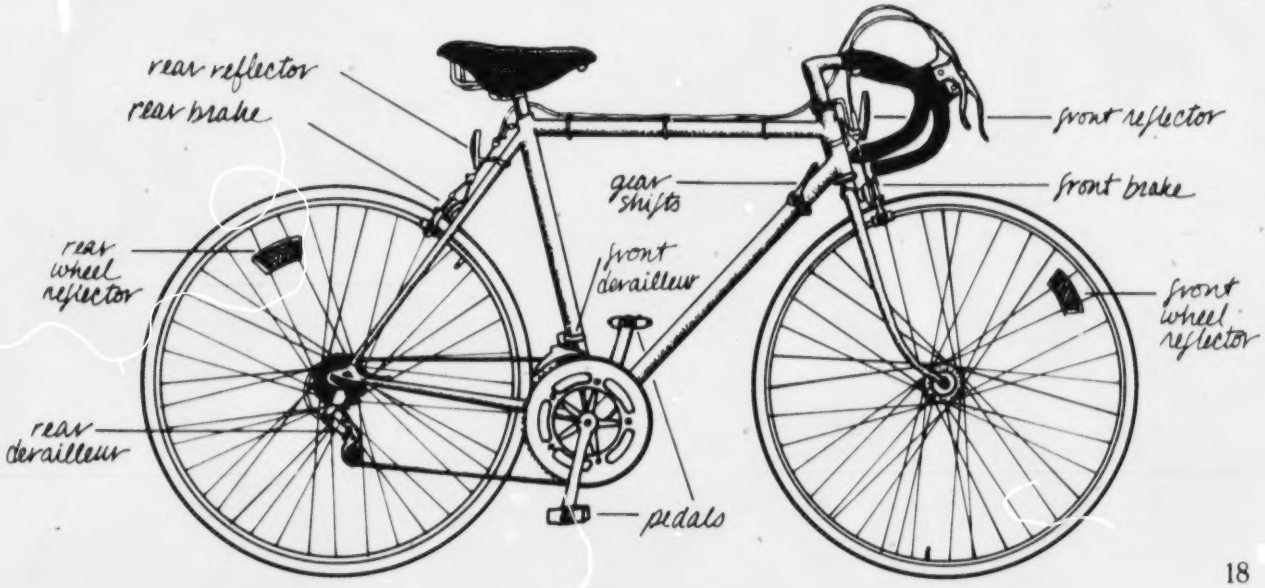
Bicycle Safety Education: A Guide to Resources and Materials (Booklet), GPO #052-011-00151-1, $2.20 for 1 copy.

"A *Safer Bike*," 34 color slides with cassette tape, on free loan from Modern Talking Picture Service outlets.

THE FIRST BICYCLES IN THE U.S.

Known as velocipedes, curricules, or Swift Walkers, the first bicycles were imported in 1819 and made their appearance May 21 in New York City. On August 19 of that year, the Common Council passed a law "to prevent the use of velocipedes in the public places and on the sidewalks of the City of New York."





JUNE

SUMMER SAFETY

In summer more than any other season, people are involved in outdoor recreational activities. To keep everyone's enjoyment from being marred by seasonal hazards, they should understand safety rules for the use of swimming pools and camping equipment.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: *What kinds of accidents are associated with swimming pools?*

A: Falls on slippery walkways, decks, diving boards and ladders are the most common problems. People also are hurt when they dive or slide into shallow areas and strike the bottom or sides of the pool. The most serious danger, of course, is drowning.

Q: *How flammable are tents?*

A: Many older tents that are made mostly of cotton will ignite and burn completely within a few minutes. Most camping tents being manufactured now are flame resistant and include some kind of informative labeling. Remember, however, that "flame resistant" does not mean "flame proof."

POOL SAFETY

Pool safety rules should be respected by all swimmers. No one should ever swim alone. When children use the pool, they should have competent adult supervision. No one should run or push others into the pool.

Diving boards should not be used in pools that aren't deep enough for them. Before divers take off, they should make sure the area is clear, and then go straight off the end of the board, not off the side.

Slip-resistant areas on decks and diving boards must be clean to prevent the growth of algae.

A safety float line should indicate where the bottom slope begins to deepen (approximately the four-foot level).

CONSTRUCTION OF HOME POOLS

The fence surrounding the pool should be secured with a lock and should be hard to climb. Direct access should not be provided to the pool area from a house or patio door.

Slip-resistant materials or finish should be used on the decks and the diving boards.

If the various depths of the pool are indicated by numbers painted along the edge, swimmers can make better judgments. Sudden drops in depth should be avoided. Safe diving areas can be indicated with a different color painted on the pool bottom. (It should be noted that

the frequently recommended diving board depth of 8½ feet is not always deep enough; a safe depth depends on the style of diving and the skill of the diver.)

There should be sufficient lighting around the pool so people can see at night. If the pool is to be used at night, there should be underwater lighting.

Ladders should be equipped with handrails (small enough in diameter for a child's firm grip), and slip-resistant steps at least two inches wide.

The electrical systems should be installed by licensed electricians in accordance with recognized standards for safety and local building codes.

Pool slides should conform to the regulations established by the Consumer Product Safety Commission (see "Swimming Pool Slides Safety Standards," 16CFR, Part 1207). Recommendations for the minimum water depth for slides must be followed.

TENT SAFETY

Choose a flame-resistant tent.

Ignition sources, such as candles, heating and cooking stoves, lanterns and matches, should never be used in or near a tent.

Campfires should be built downwind and several yards away from the tent. All flame sources should be extinguished before campers go to sleep.

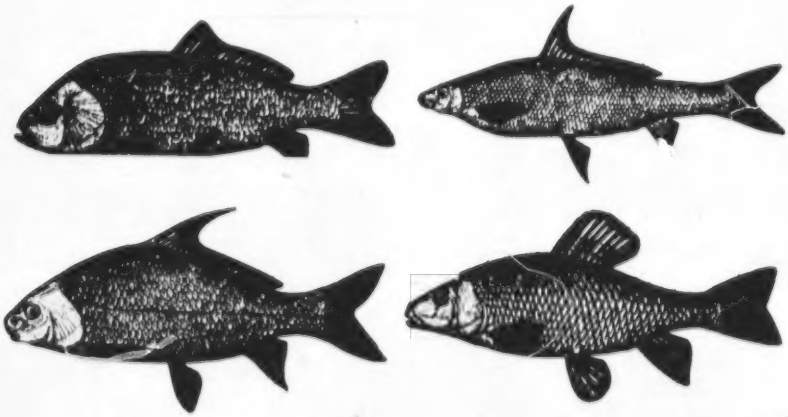
Flammable liquids should be stored in tightly capped safety cans, away from children, and never in or near a tent.

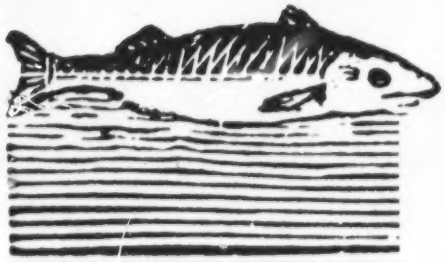
ACTIVITIES

Objectives: To increase the awareness of community members of the need to select and use tents and swimming pools safely.

Hold a Summer Fun – Safety First workshop for community members. Stress the hazards of the flammability of tents with instructions to avoid using ignition sources near them. Cite examples of accidents involving tents and encourage participants to discuss how these accidents could have been avoided.

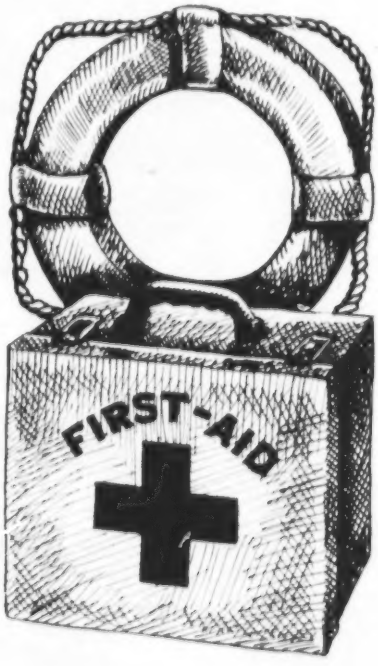
Invite a doctor, nurse or first-aid instructor to speak on how to prevent drownings. Train members in how to administer artificial respiration.





AN ANCIENT SPORT

The ability to swim is not "natural" or innate in people as it is in many other animals. Although humans must *learn* how, it appears that swimming is one of their oldest sports. 11,000-year-old cave drawings which depict people swimming have been discovered in the Libyan Desert. Records dating to 2160 B.C. document that an Egyptian nobleman had his children take swimming lessons. Swimming pools were common in the Roman Empire. Many cities had public baths. Indoor home models of that time were heated by wood-burning furnaces located under the floor.



Vertical wheel

Thunder flash rocket

Glittering cascade

Catherine wheel

Cracker

JULY

FIREWORK SAFETY

Q: *Who is most often hurt in fireworks accidents?*

A: Many of the injured are less than 15 years old.

Q: *What kinds of injuries do they receive?*

A: Blindings, amputations, severe burns and death all too often have been the result of fireworks misuse.

Q: *Are fireworks illegal?*

A: In December 1976 the Consumer Product Safety Commission issued regulations on all "Class C Common Fireworks" sold or distributed in interstate commerce for consumer use. These lowered the permissible charge in firecrackers to 50 milligrams (about half a teaspoon) and specified labeling and performance requirements for fireworks other than firecrackers, including that fuses burn at least three and no more than six seconds.

Many states and localities also prohibit or restrict fireworks. These regulations and restrictions, however, cannot guarantee that illegal fireworks will not be sold. The best way to protect children from the dangers that fireworks present is to help them understand the hazards involved, and why precautions must be taken.

PRECAUTIONS WITH FIREWORKS

All fireworks carry the message "USE ONLY UNDER (CLOSE) ADULT SUPERVISION." Children cannot appreciate the dangers involved, and cannot always act correctly in case of emergency. Even the sparkler, considered by many the ideal "safe" firework, burns at very high temperatures and can easily ignite clothing.

All directions and warning labels should be read—and heeded.

Fireworks should be ignited only outdoors—away from houses, dry grass and bushes and other flammable materials. They should be lit one at a time after everyone is out of the way. They should never be lit in metal or glass containers.

Malfunctioning fireworks should not be relit or handled. They should be soaked in water and then thrown away.

A bucket of water should always be handy.

Never experiment with fireworks, or mix anything with their contents.

Fireworks should be stored in a cool, dry place. (Check instructions for special storage directions.)

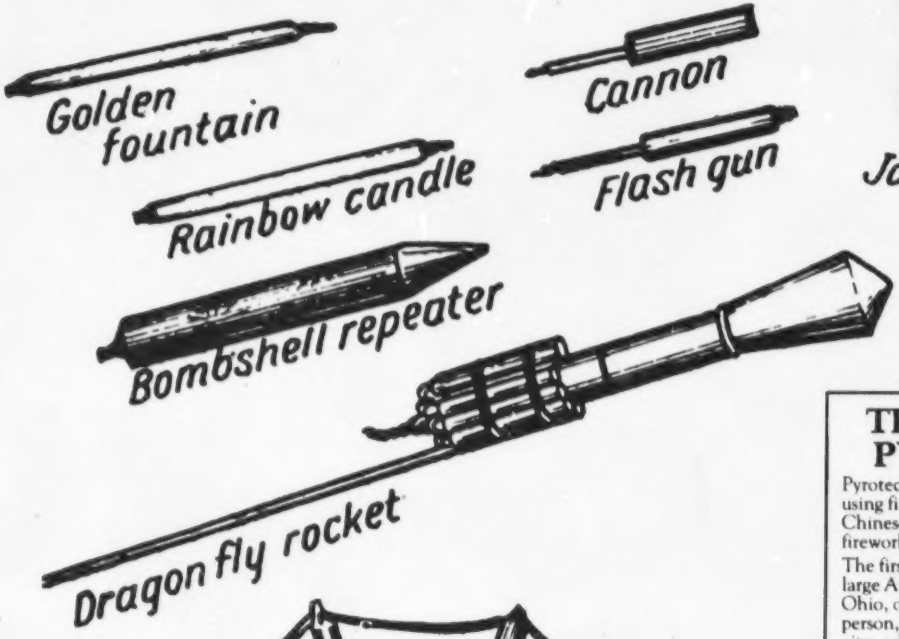
ACTIVITIES

Objective: To help community members become fully aware of the dangers of fireworks.

Assign a team of members to research local fireworks regulations. Are they safety oriented? If not, what can the group do to improve the effectiveness of such regulations?

Organize a "Fireworks Safety Display," showing various types of fireworks and accompanied by safety instructions.

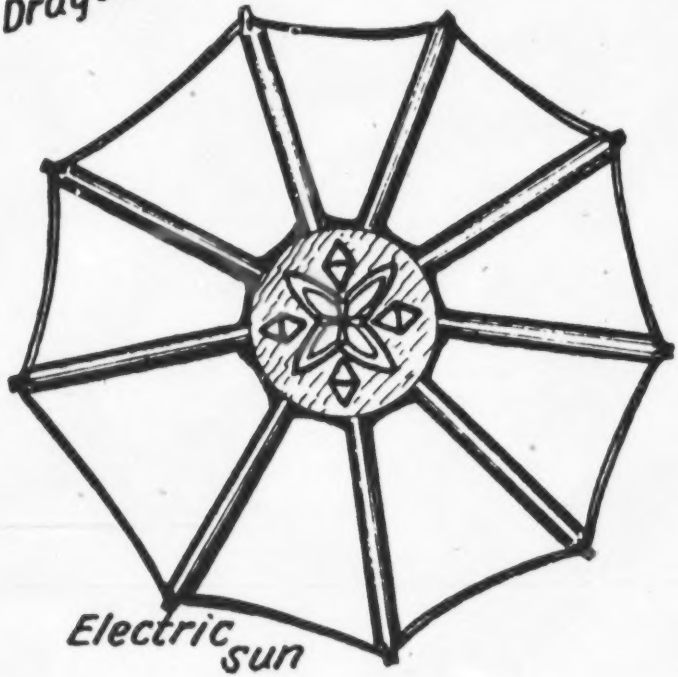
Jack in the box



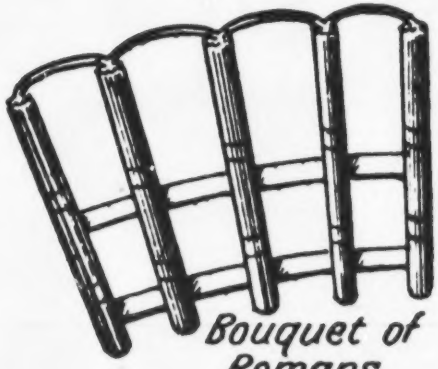
THE HISTORY OF PYROTECHNICS

Pyrotechnics is the technology of making and using fireworks. It was developed by the Chinese, who first used gunpowder for firework displays in the 9th century.

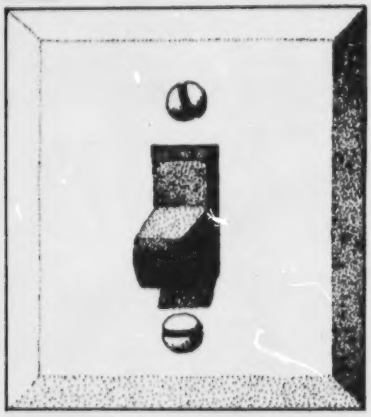
The first fireworks legislation enacted by a large American city was passed by Cleveland, Ohio, on July 18, 1908. It provided that "No person, firm or corporation shall within the city, sell, offer for sale or have in his or its possession or custody any toy pistol, squib, rocket, cracker, Roman candle or fire balloon or other combustibles, or fireworks," under penalty of a $100 fine or 30 days in jail, or both.



Electric sun



Bouquet of Romans



AUGUST

BATHROOM SAFETY

The bathroom is one of the most hazardous areas in the home. A realization of this is the first component of bathroom safety.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: *What kinds of accidents happen in the bathroom?*

A: Many of them involve falls, scalds, cuts, electrocutions and drownings.

Q: *How do these accidents happen?*

A: Many bathroom accidents can be attributed to slippery tubs or floors, lack of careful supervision of young children in the bathroom and the inability of handicapped and elderly persons to react quickly. Other causes include poor planning in the design and installation of bathroom fixtures.

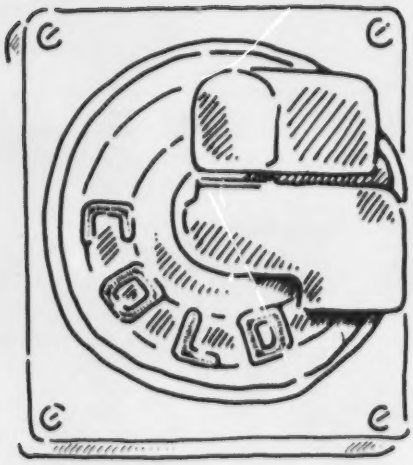
Q: *Don't manufacturers and the plumbers who install bathroom fixtures follow precautionary safety standards?*

A: Standards for the safe design and placement of bathroom facilities are virtually non-existent. Some design flaws are easy for the consumer to correct if he or she knows how to identify them.

FALLS

Footing can be made more secure in places where smooth, nonporous surfaces come into contact with soapy water by using suction-cup rubber mats or rough-surfaced adhesive strips. (Some bathtubs are now manufactured with slip-resistant surfaces.)

At least two sturdy grab bars should be securely mounted (at different heights)on the wall beside a bathtub, and one in every shower stall. Towel rings and racks and shower curtain rods should also be strong and mounted securely, since a falling person will grab at the first available support to break the fall. (Many standard rings and racks are not sufficiently strong to break a fall, no matter how securely they are mounted.)



BURNS

Babies or small children should never be in the bathroom for any reason without an adult present.

The bath water should always be tested before bathing an infant or small child. Water heated only to 115°F is destructive to human tissue.

Bathtub and shower faucets should be the kind that mix hot and cold water. The temperature also can be controlled at the hot water heater, or by installing thermostatic or pressure regulating control valves in showers.

CUTS

All tub and shower accessories should be free of sharp edges and constructed of materials that will not break in use.

Razors and blades always should be put out of the reach of children, even if the person using them is leaving the room only for a moment. (For information on safety glazing for shower doors and tub enclosures, see Feburary.)

ELECTROCUTIONS

Avoid using electrical appliances, such as radios, hair dryers and sun lamps in the bathroom. Electrical fixtures (including the metal pullchains on many over-the-washbowl lights) should never be touched with wet hands or while in the tub or standing on a damp floor.

Electrical outlets located near the bathtub should not be used. In building a new home or adding a new room, only one bathroom outlet should be provided, situated as far from the tub as practical. Consideration should be given to protecting bathroom circuits with a ground fault circuit interrupter.

DROWNINGS

As in the recommendations for avoiding burns, small children never should be left unattended in the bath. (Children can drown in very small amounts of water.)

Elderly persons and the handicapped should be watched carefully. A key to the bathroom always should be available in case of emergency.

ACTIVITIES

Objective: To increase community awareness of bathroom accidents and of the need to prevent unnecessary injuries by correcting faulty conditions and unsafe habits.

Have a team of members research who establishes building codes that apply to bathrooms and bathroom design safety. Are the codes comprehensive enough? Do they help prevent injuries caused by burns, falls and cuts? If not, what changes are necessary?

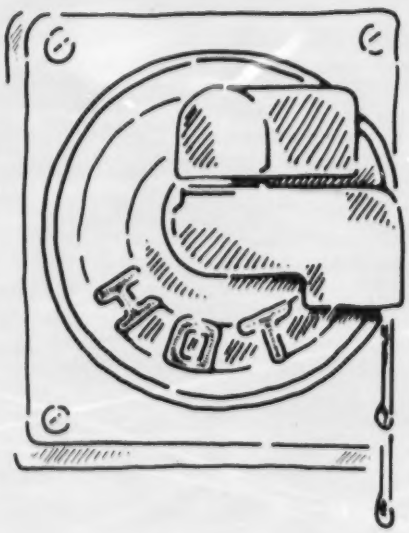
Organize a bathroom safety workshop. Invite a panel of experts—a builder, doctor or nurse, consumer advocate and a safety specialist—to educate the community on bathroom safety.

RESOURCE MATERIALS

"That Feeling of Falling," 12 minute, 16mm color sound film, on free loan from Modern Talking Picture Service outlets.

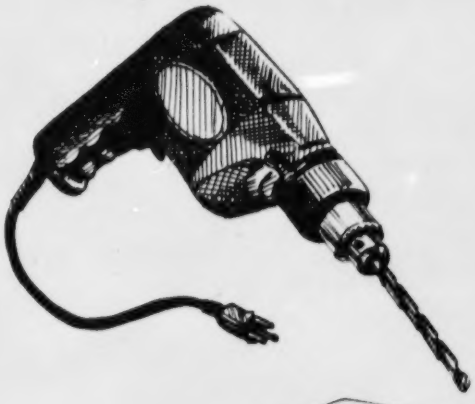
A BATHROOM MISHAP

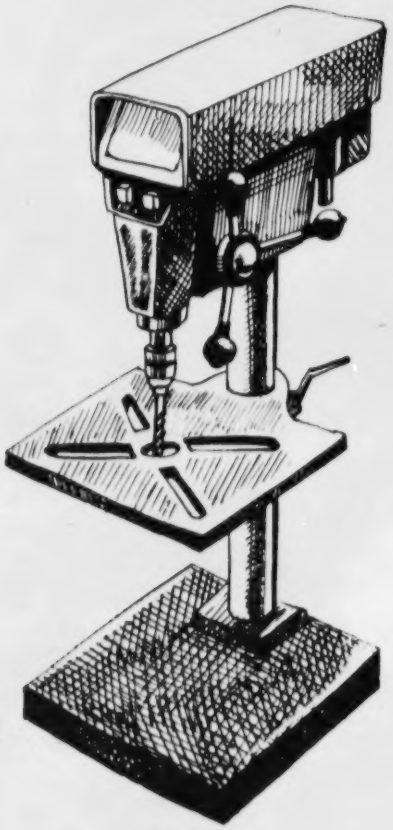
In the first orbital space flight, John H. Glenn, Jr., circled the earth three times, covering a distance of 81,000 miles. Though he returned from this space journey without mishap, he later was injured seriously when he fell in his bathroom. Glenn had to withdraw from his first Senate race and was disabled for months.



The fascination of tools is that they are concerned not with what man has achieved but with how he has achieved it. Tools are the extension of his senses. It is man as a tool-using animal who has achieved so much.

–Edward DeBono in *Eureka!*





SEPTEMBER

WORKSHOP SAFETY

Power workshop tools are dangerous. They can become more dangerous if the tools are defective, in poor repair or misused. A basic knowledge of safety principles should be acquired before the tools are used.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: *What tools are commonly associated with workshop injuries?*

A: Accidents with power saws result in the greatest number of injuries. Other tools include drills (which are the most common), sanders, routers, lathes, grinders, jointers, planers, shapers, welders, soldering guns and associated accessories, such as torches and work lights.

Q: *How do these accidents happen?*

A: Contact with the cutting surface, electrocutions and shocks, fires, kickback of the wood or stock, and objects thrown by the equipment cause most injuries.

Q: *What is stock and kickback?*

A: Stock means the material being cut. When stock is being fed into saws, it can be thrust violently backward—or kicked back—from the saw blade. This can be caused by pinching the blade or by the blade hitting a nail or other hard spot.

Accidents involving contact with cutting surfaces

All instruction manuals should be read completely for a thorough understanding of each tool. Power tools should be equipped with securely attached handles, and on/off switches should be located where they cannot be activated accidentally. If possible, saws should be tested in the store to see if the blade stops as soon as the power is turned off. (Dynamic braking is an added safety feature.) Portable tools should have "dead-man" switches that shut off power when hand pressure is released.

Blade guards and other safety devices should be kept in place at all times.

A push stick should be used to make lengthwise cuts with stationary saws. This will keep hands away from the blade.

Sturdy shoes and safety glasses should be worn. Loose clothing, ties or jewelry that may catch in moving parts should not be worn.

Work areas should be well lit and clear of sawdust and other loose materials, electrical cables and extension cords. Rubber or other non-slip matting on the floor also will help prevent slipping.

Operators should not reach across a power tool until the motor is off and all moving parts have stopped. Tools should not be cleaned or carried unless they are unplugged and cool.

Children should be kept away from the work area at all times. Tools should be stored where children cannot get to them.

Electrocutions, shocks and fires

Electric tools should always be equipped with double insulation or a three-prong grounded plug. Extension cords should be avoided, but if one must be used, it should have the same ampere rating as the tool to which it is attached.

Electrically powered tools should not be used in damp or wet areas. Metal ladders should be avoided in making electrical repairs or using electrically powered tools.

All flammable liquids should be kept away from the work area.

Electrical circuits should not be overloaded.

Injuries from flying materials

Table saws should be equipped with anti-kickback devices.

Blades should be kept sharp, clean and lubricated.

Cuts should never be forced; saws should be allowed to operate at their own speeds.

The stock (wood, metal, etc.) should be held with clamps or vices whenever possible.

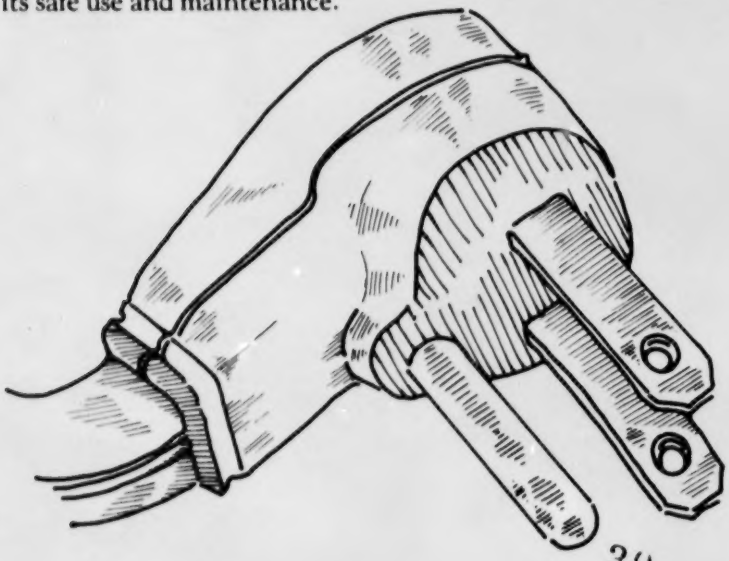
ACTIVITIES

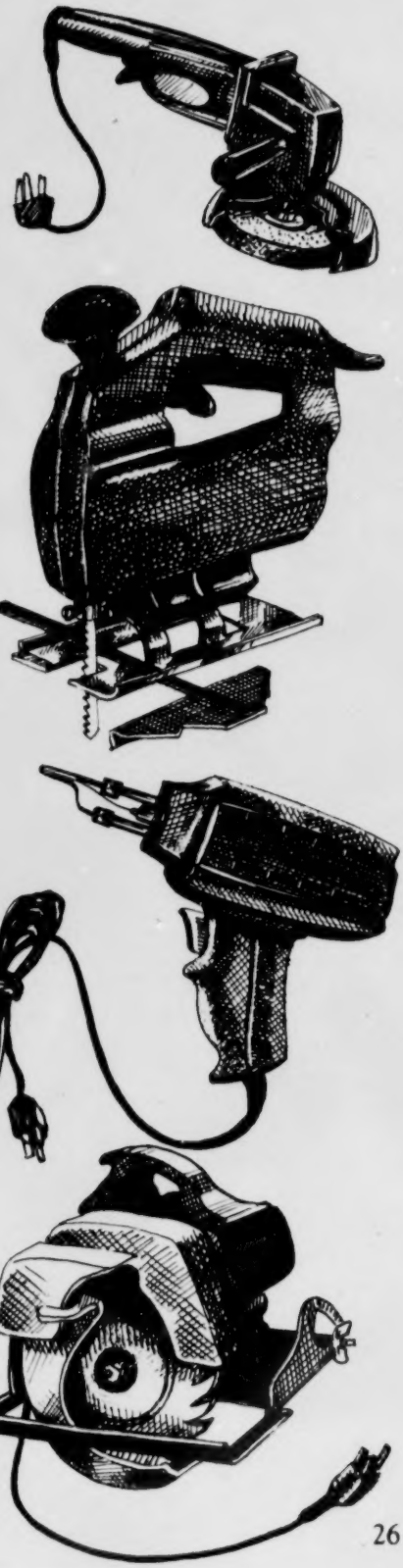
Objective: To encourage community members to promote a workshop safety campaign in their communities.

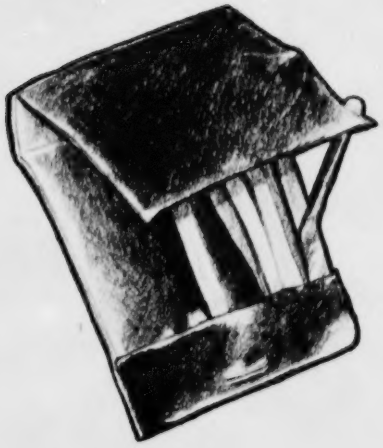
Invite a local carpenter, consumer advocate, hardware store owner and tool manufacturer to participate in a workshop safety panel. A demonstration of safe techniques for use of various equipment could be arranged.

Sponsor a Safety in the Workshop campaign. Print leaflets and fact sheets on workshop safety and distribute in hardware stores and high school shop classes.

Approach hardware store owners or other tool retailers about a campaign to tag specific workshop equipment with information on its safe use and maintenance.







OCTOBER

BURN PREVENTION

Fire Prevention Week is observed this month and its importance cannot be overemphasized. It is estimated that every year in the United States 12,000 people die in fires and 300,000 others are injured. Because of their visibility and access to media, community organizations can be one of the best means of educating the public about burn prevention.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: *What can organizations do to help the members of their community prevent or reduce the number and severity of burn injuries?*

A: Many people believe they would be powerless in the event of a fire and that accidental burns are just "bad luck." Organizations can be instrumental in changing that attitude. They can help people:

Recognize potential fire hazards in the home;

Learn the safest way to behave during a fire, including the planning and practicing of escape exits;

Learn how to help someone whose clothing is on fire;

Learn which fabrics are safest from fire;

Learn how to store and use flammable liquids correctly;

Understand the importance of remaining calm in a burn emergency;

Learn emergency treatment for all types of burns.

PROTECTING CHILDREN

One-third of all burn victims are children 13 years old or younger. Children in this age group are most commonly injured by playing with matches and lighters. Burn injuries also are the result of scalds, accidents with flammable liquids, and ignition of clothing.

All matches and lighters should be kept out of the reach of children.

Children should be educated about the concept of flammable vapors, which may not even be seen, but which can ignite when contacted by heat sources.

Every family should have a well planned and practiced escape route in case of fire. Families also should have a prearranged meeting place outside the home. Most children are injured in home fires because they do not know how to get out. Worse yet, they often hide under beds or in closets where they cannot be found by rescuers.

Children should know to crawl out in case exit must be made through smoke. Smoke rises, so they should stay as close to the floor as possible.

Hot doors should never be opened in a fire. The door and doorknob should be felt first, and if either is hot, the door should not be opened. Windows should be opened to allow air in.

All children should know how to call the fire department.

Scalds

Scalds are burns produced by hot liquid or steam. To avoid scalds:

- Pan handles should be turned inward on the stove to avoid bumping and spilling;
- Hot pans should never be touched;
- The bath water should always be tested before babies and small children are bathed, and they should never be left unattended.

Electricity

Electricity presents two major hazards—fire and shock. Children should not use electrical appliances without adequate supervision and should never touch dangling electric cords.

ACTIVITIES

Objective: To increase public awareness about ways to prevent burn injuries.

Contact CPSC to obtain information on its Community Outreach Program. This program is designed to equip community leaders with the necessary information and materials to inform community members how burns occur and how they can be prevented.

Arrange to have a local firefighter or fire marshall outline for the group crucial factors contributing to burn injuries at home and at work. Encourage members to map specific exit routes for their homes, to practice the routes thoroughly and to install smoke detectors in appropriate areas in the home.

Make a Home Safety Check List (or use one available from CPSC). Encourage members to use these to improve the safety of their homes.

HALLOWEEN FIRE PREVENTION

Costumes should fit well and be flame resistant, as should be accessories (wigs, hats, beards, etc.).

Under no circumstances should children carry candles or any other flame source—not even in lanterns or pumpkins. Flashlights are much safer, provide more protection from motorists, and can be more useful as a costume prop. Care should be taken with all candle-lit jack-o-lanterns. They never should be set near curtains or other furnishings or on doorsteps where children's costumes might brush against them.

RESOURCE MATERIALS

"*The Hazard Hunt on Flammable Products and Ignition Sources,*" Script with 20 transparencies/vugraphs, on loan from CPSC Area Office.

"*Safety With Flammable Fabrics,*" 34 color slides with cassette tape, on free loan from Modern Talking Picture Service outlets.

"*A Guide to Flammable Products and Ignition Sources—for Adult Consumers,*" illustrated booklet, GPO #052-011-00146-5, $1.30 for 1 copy.

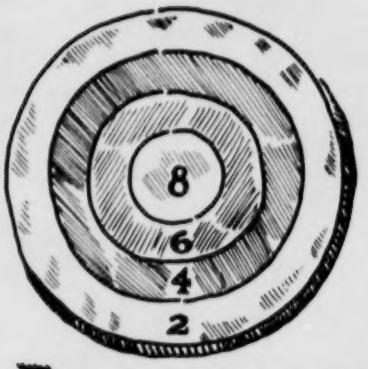
IF CLOTHES CATCH ON FIRE...

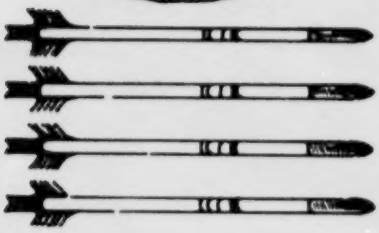
DROP to the floor or ground immediately (running fans flames and makes the fire worse);

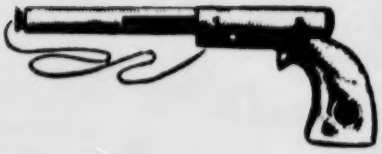
ROLL directly on the area that is burning—back and forth;

YELL for help;

COOL the burned area by pouring cool water on it as soon as possible.







NOVEMBER

SAFE TOY BUYING

Toys are an important part of every child's life, but some may inflict pain as well as give pleasure. Community members can help protect children against the safety hazards toys can present with wise toy shopping and play supervision.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q: *How dangerous can children's toys be? Aren't they made for kids?*

A: Many marketed toys have been found to be unsafe, and even the safest toy can be dangerous in the wrong hands. Falls are the most frequent type of toy accident, but many serious injuries result from children swallowing small parts, or putting them in noses and ears. Projectiles present hazards, as do electrical and heat-producing toys, flammable toys and toys with sharp edges.

Q: *Is there any consumer protection against unsafe toys?*

A: Many toys have been banned by CPSC. Safety requirements designed to reduce the risk of injury from certain types of hazards also are in effect; some toys require warning labels.

CPSC inspectors survey toy factories, warehouses and retail outlets to insure compliance with these requirements. The Customs Bureau also cooperates with CPSC to check imports for possible hazards.

Q: *If toys are now inspected and labeled, why should the consumer worry?*

A: Each year many new toys enter the marketplace, and it is impossible for government inspectors to examine every toy. It is possible, however, for parents, older brothers and sisters, and younger children themselves to check each new toy, and every old toy around the house, for possible hazards.

THE SEVEN TOY DANGERS

Sharp Edges: Brittle plastic or glass toys can be easily broken, exposing dangerous cutting edges. Wooden, metal and plastic toys sometimes have sharp edges due to poor construction.

Small Parts: Tiny toys and toys with small removable parts can be swallowed or become lodged in a child's windpipe, ears or nose. The squeakers in some squeeze toys can be removed and possibly swallowed. The seams of poorly constructed stuffed dolls or animals can break open and release small pellets that also can be swallowed or inhaled.

Loud Noises: Some noise-making guns and toy caps produce sounds at noise levels that can damage hearing. (Some boxes of caps are now required to carry a label reading: "WARNING—do not fire closer than one foot to the ear. Do not use indoors.")

Sharp Points: Broken toys can expose dangerous prongs and knife-sharp points. Pins and staples on dolls' clothes, hair and accessories

can easily puncture an unsuspecting child. Even a Teddy bear or stuffed toy can have barbed eyes or wired limbs which can cut or stab.

Propelled Objects: Any projectile can be used as a weapon and injure eyes in particular. Arrows or darts used by children should have rubber suction cups, or protective tips like those made of soft cork. Children should never play with adult hobby or sporting equipment that has sharp points.

Wrong Toy for the Wrong Age: Common sense must be used in both toy selection and play supervision. A 12-year-old using an electric football game may need little or no supervision, while a nine-year-old using an electric toy oven will need a great deal. Older brothers and sisters should remember that their toys might be hazardous for their less skillful young siblings.

Electric Toys: Electric toys must meet requirements for maximum surface temperatures, electrical construction and prominent warning labels. Toys which include heating elements are recommended only for children over eight years old—but that does not mean that every eight-year old is mature enough to use the toy. The misuse of even safe electric toys can cause shocks or burns. Children should use electric toys cautiously and under adult supervision.

All instruction booklets should be read carefully and then filed for ready reference.

Toys damaged beyond adequate repair should be discarded immediately.

Children should put their toys safely away after playing to prevent falls and other injuries.

ACTIVITIES

Objective: To teach community members how to purchase safe toys and supervise children at play.

Invite the community to a panel discussion on how to buy toys which are safe and also develop creativity and imagination. The panel could be composed of a toy manufacturer, a child development expert or child psychiatrist, a consumer advocate and a parent.

Set up a display of safe and unsafe toys in the community library or supermarket. The display should explain why certain toys are safe or unsafe for children under certain ages.

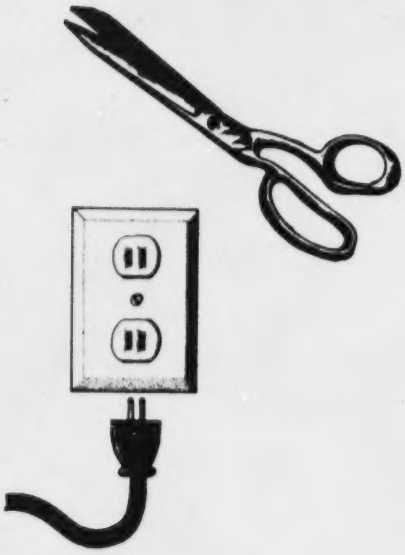
Before the holiday toy-buying season starts, sponsor TV or radio spots advocating safe toy buying.

RESOURCE MATERIALS

"*Bubble, Bubble, Toys and Trouble,*" 8½ minute, 16mm color sound film and "*Recognizing Toy Hazards,*" 30 color slides with cassette tape, on free loan from Modern Talking Picture Service outlets.

"*Because You Care for Kids,*" Booklet, GPO #052-011-00149-0, $1.30 for 1 copy.

"*The Super Sitter*" Booklet, baby sitter's guide, GPO #052-011-00114-7, $5.00 for 25 copies.



BABYSITTING WORKSHOP

Most teenagers need more than experience as older siblings to take proper care of children. Sitters (and the parents who employ them) deserve careful training.

WHAT SITTERS SHOULD EXPECT OF PARENTS

Sitters should ask for the following information before parents leave the house.

__ Where the parents will be
__ Nearby friend, relative or neighbor
__ Children's doctor
__ Fire department
__ Police department
__ Poison control center
__ Hospital

Parents should show the sitter through the home and point out items the sitter will need (for example, children's clothing, playthings).

A parent should describe the child's routine so the sitter knows exactly what is expected.

WHAT PARENTS SHOULD EXPECT OF SITTERS

A sitter should know where emergency exits are located. In case of fire, she or he should get the children out of the house without stopping to do anything else. Once they are safe with a neighbor, a sitter should call the fire department, and then the parents.

Sitters should know where potential hazards are, such as electrical outlets, appliances, exposed heating elements. Sitters should check with parents to determine if all medicines, bleaches, household cleaners and other hazardous substances are locked up securely.

Stairs, glass doors and windows are dangerous for children. They should be discouraged from playing on stairs and running or riding bikes near glass.

The doors and windows should be kept locked. Sitters should always know where the children are. If someone whom the children or sitter doesn't know comes to the door, the sitter should call and check with the parents.

In case of accidents or illness, except for minor cuts and bruises, the parents should be contacted and asked for instructions. If they cannot be reached, sitters can call a neighbor or their own parents.

Children should be carefully supervised at play. Sitters can use time at a local playground to teach safe play habits to children. For example:

Children should be taught to sit in the center of swings, not off to the side.

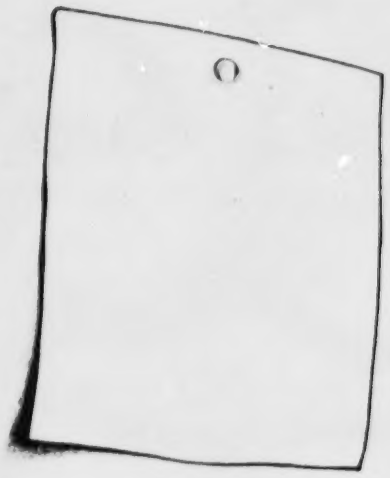
Children should not roughhouse—no shoving, pushing or fighting.

Swing chains should never be twisted, empty seats should not be pushed, and no one should walk in front or back of moving swings.

Sitters should be aware of the hazards of sharp edges; exposed bolts; S-hooks which can catch clothing; hard, heavy swing seats; inadequate spacing of play equipment; improper anchoring of equipment; and hard surfaces underneath playground equipment.

Sitters should watch what children eat—and be sure that only food goes into their mouths. (See March for details on poison prevention.)

Sitters should never invite personal friends over without parent's permission.



ACTIVITIES

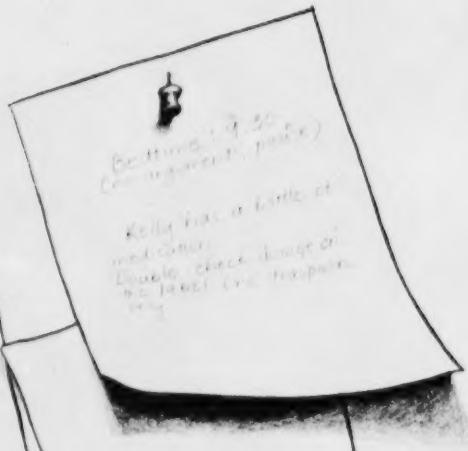
Objective: To encourage community groups to develop consumer product safety oriented materials which will be valuable to both parents and sitters. Develop a check list of product-related hazards (such as improperly stored cleaning supplies) that babysitters—and their employers—should look for.

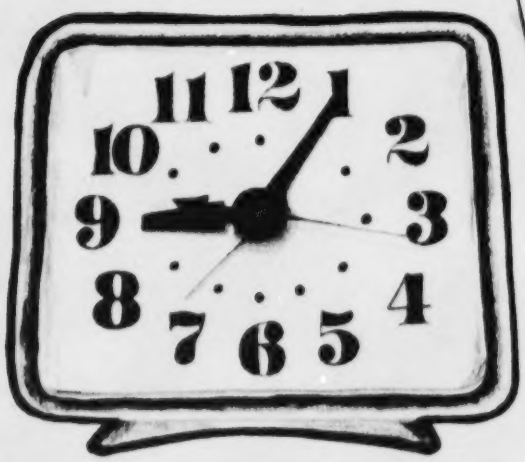
Make up a folder of materials for a babysitter's—or parents'—reference in such emergency situations as a child suffering electrical shock, eating a number of aspirins, or being burned.

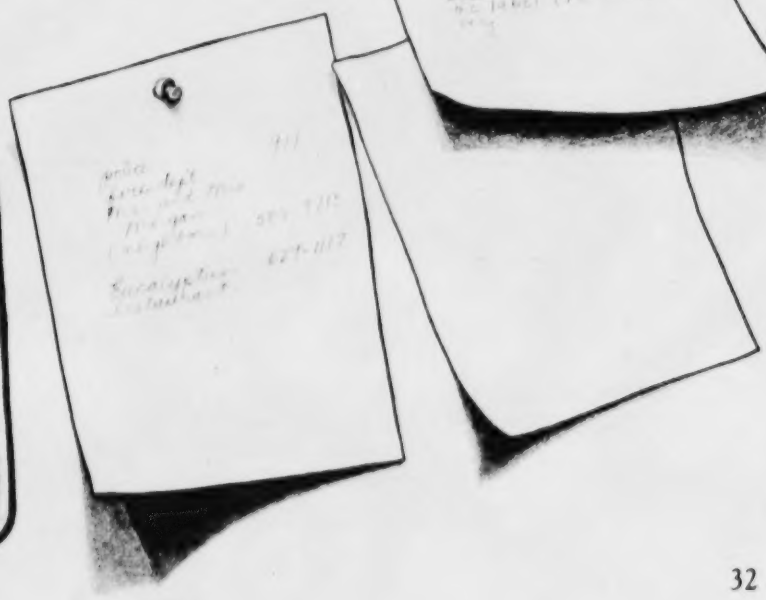
RESOURCE MATERIALS

"*Because You Care for Kids,*" Booklet, GPO #052-011-00149-0, $1.30 for 1 copy.

"*The Super Sitter*" Booklet, baby sitter's guide, GPO #052-011-00114-7, $5.00 for 25 copies.







DECEMBER

HOLIDAY SAFETY

The holiday season provides a much needed winter break and a cause for celebration for many people. Steps should be taken to make this season a safe and happy one.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Q: *What kinds of hazards does this season present?*

A: The same kinds present during the rest of the year but they are exaggerated during this season by the change of habits the holidays bring. More company is entertained in homes that have not been "child-proofed" for safety. Many new and unfamiliar consumer products are introduced through gift-giving. Other hazards include the increase of fire risks of all kinds, cooking and other kitchen hazards, and those that come with the use of electrical decorations.

Q: *What can be done to avoid such seasonal accidents?*

A: CPSC can focus attention on the potential risks of the season, but nothing can replace the wisdom of individuals in selecting and using products correctly.

FIREPLACE SAFETY

Fire prevention safety can never be overstressed. Many guidelines exist relating to the safe manufacture, purchase and use of various ignition sources and flammable products, but these guidelines can never guarantee or be a safe substitute for the safe use of such products.

Most injuries associated with fireplaces are cuts and bruises from mishandling of wood and fireplace equipment. But the most serious injuries are burns, and most of the victims are children. Typical accident patterns include open flames igniting clothing, sparks from fires lighting nearby flammable material, flammable liquids (used to kindle or rekindle fires) burning out of control and inadequate ventilation causing carbon monoxide poisoning.

The damper must be always kept open when the fireplace is in use.

Gasoline or other flammable liquids should never be used near a fire. Explosive vapors can travel the length of a room.

A screen that completely covers the fireplace opening should always be used to prevent sparks from flying into the room. Flammable materials (for example, decorations, carpets, furniture) should never be placed near a fireplace. A discarded Christmas tree never should be burned in a fireplace, since the dry boughs may flare out of control.

Care should be taken to make sure the fire is out completely before going to bed.

Children should keep away from the fire at all times.

HOLIDAY DECORATION SAFETY

Use only light strings that have labels stating that they have been tested for safety.

Every year, each set should be inspected for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires and loose connections. Damaged sets should be discarded or repaired before they are used.

Outdoor lights must be weatherproof. Indoor lights should not be used outdoors, or vice versa.

The total current (or power) rating of sets of lights connected to an extension cord should not exceed the cord manufacturer's rating.

All lights should be turned off and disconnected before residents retire or leave the house.

Electric lights never should be used on metallic trees, which can become charged with electricity from faulty connections and present an electrocution hazard. Colored floodlights can be used instead, if they are kept away from children and flammable goods.

To help avoid the possibility of fire, when choosing evergreen trees, check for freshness. Trees should have needles that stay secure on the branches and bend but do not break when folded and trunk butts that are sticky with resin. The tree should be mounted in a sturdy, water-holding stand with wide-spread legs. Indoor trees should always stand in water.

Smoking should be avoided near flammable decorations. Loose flowing clothes—especially long, open sleeves—should not be worn near the open flames of a fireplace, stove or candle.

Only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials should be used in trimming.

Decorations that resemble candy, or are sharp, breakable, or have small removable parts present hazards to small children. Only tinsel made of plastic or non-leaded metals should be used.

The introduction of the incandescent lamp in 1879 heralded the domination of safety and efficiency over beauty and tradition in tree decoration in this country. Candle-lit trees, though very dangerous, still enjoy immense popularity in Germany.

ACTIVITIES

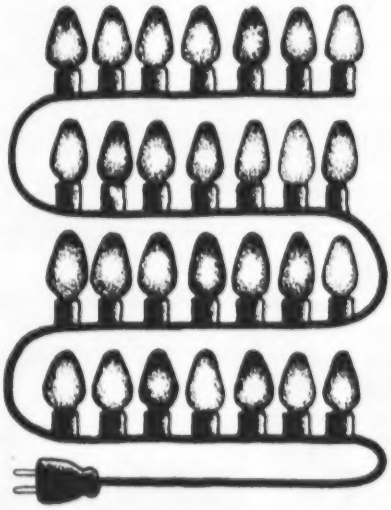
Objective: To encourage community members to recognize and help eliminate holiday hazards.

Make Christmas tree tags (in the shape of trees) with safety instructions on them. The reverse side of the tag could include a Christmas greeting from the sponsoring group. Distribute them to cooperating retailers to be fastened to trees.

Make arrangements with a local newspaper to run a large ad with a holiday safety checklist. The ad could urge families to use the list to safety-proof their homes.

Develop and distribute a brochure of holiday safety recommendations. The brochure could be used to extend holiday greetings to the community.

Place holiday safety exhibits in cooperating stores.



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CPSC MODERN TALKING PICTURE OUTLETS

Atlanta, Georgia 30336
4705-F Bakers Ferry Road
404 — 696-2025

Boston, Massachusetts
203 Boylston Street
Chestnut Hill, Mass. 02167
617 — 527-4184

Buffalo, New York 14202
122 West Chippewa Street
716 — 853-1805

Cedar Rapids, Iowa 52404
200 Third Avenue, S.W.
319 — 363-8144

Charlotte, North Carolina 28202
503 North College Street
704 — 377-2574

Chicago, Illinois
1687 Elmhurst Road
Elk Grove Village, Illinois 60007
312 — 593-3250

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202
9 Garfield Place
513 — 421-2516

Cleveland, Ohio
2238 Euclid Avenue
216 — 621-9469

Dallas, Texas 75207
1411 Slocum Street
214 — 742-4106

Denver, Colorado 80204
1200 Stout Street
303 — 573-7300

Detroit, Michigan 48235
15921 W. 8 Mile Road
313 — 273-2070

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17105
2009 North Third Street
P.O. Box 3035
717 — 238-8123

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
716 Cooke Street
808 — 536-9105

Houston, Texas 77027
4084 Westheimer Road
713 — 622-3841

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204
115 East Michigan Street
317 — 635-5331

Los Angeles, California 90038
1145 N. McCadden Place
213 — 469-8282

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